

THE SILENT WORLD.

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No. 2.

DEAF, AND YET I HEAR.

To me, though neither voice nor sound
From earth or air may come,
Deaf to the world that brawls around,
The world to me is dumb.

Yet may the quick and conscious eye
Assist the slow, dull ear;
Light can the signs of thought supply,
And with a look I hear.

The song of birds, the water's fall.
Sweet tones and grating jars,
Hail, tempest, wind, and thunder, all
Are silent as the stars.

The stars that on their tranquil way,
In language without speech,
The glory of the Lord display
And to all nations preach.

Now, though *one* outward sense be sealed,
The kind remaining four,
To teach me needful knowledge yield
Their earnest aid the more.

Yet hath my heart an inward ear,
Through which its powers rejoice;
Speak, Lord, and let me love to hear
Thy Spirit's still, small voice.

So when the Archangel from the ground
Shall summon great and small,
The ear now deaf shall hear that sound,
And answer to the call.

---James Montgomery.

[These beautiful lines acquire additional interest from being recently read at the funeral of Mary B. Norton, a girl of thirteen, who died at the American Asylum, Hartford, Conn., on the 22d of November last.—Eds.]

AMOS KENDALL.

x.

Thus ended Amos Kendall's college life. It was one of disappointments; but his disappointments were honors. His honors were not the result of management, but came upon him unsought. He performed no act and concealed no opinion with the view of gaining any personal advantage. Always truthful and punctual in every college duty, he became popular without seeking popularity. Never was he absent from recitation without a sufficient excuse, and never but once from the services in the chapel. On that occasion the tutor had seen him in company with some ladies after the hour for evening prayer had passed, and when asked what excuse he had, he replied, "None at all, sir." The tutor smiled, and passed to the next delinquent.

The following is a review of Mr. Kendall's college life, written by him in his journal at its close, and in it may be found the key to his entire subsequent career:—

"At this era the mind naturally reviews the incidents which have checkered my college course. I at first entered upon my collegiate studies with much diffidence in my own powers, but with an ambition to appear among the foremost. I soon found that popularity and excellence of scholarship are seldom connected, and that decision and firmness would best secure a person from the interruptions of the fools of dissipation. My first chamber-mate was too fond of company. I soon perceived that his associates were not suitable companions for one really desirous of acquiring knowledge. Though

at first, from my ignorance of a college life, I had engaged in one or two trifling foolish adventures, I was soon freed from further vexation by a fixed and declared determination to take no part in these heroic achievements. The consequence was that my popularity, which at first was great, began to decline, and I was looked upon with an eye of suspicion. About the same time I had an invitation to join a secret club, afterwards called the *Gymnasium Adelpheon*, instituted for the promotion of friendship and mutual improvement. This society, which comprised the best part of the class both in morals and knowledge, had a wonderful effect in uniting all its members in all the succeeding difficulties. In fact, it formed a phalanx which not all the sons of dissipation were able to break or terrify. Notwithstanding it consisted of fifteen or more members, and met weekly, even its existence was never known in college. Its effects were seen, but the cause was hidden.

"At the beginning of Sophomore year my popularity had considerably declined. In the spring of that year commenced our attack upon the detestable habit of 'treating.' The open and decided part which I took in this quarrel gave a finishing blow to my popularity. I was stigmatized as an informer, nicknamed 'Giles Scroggin's ghost,' from my paleness of countenance, and had the mortification of seeing all these things written in fifty places on the college walls, and even in the chapel. But the effect was contrary to expectation. I affected to take no notice of it, and by treating every one with civility, soon had the satisfaction of seeing my enemies at my feet. Every one of them who had any sense of honor or propriety heartily detested the thing, and personally conversed with me, acknowledging themselves in fault. To the inveteracy of my enemies I attributed my not being elected into the Philoi Euphradias at the first election, and I expected the same cause would close the avenues of the Phi Beta Kappa. But in the Junior year the tide changed, and I was elected into both of those societies. My friends or flatterers informed me that many considered me the first scholar in the class. This, I must confess, though contrary to my own opinion, somewhat raised my vanity. The truth is, that at a university of this kind, a few glowing pieces of composition, with one or two public declamations, written and spoken with spirit, have more effect in raising the reputation of a student than the reasoning of a Locke, the application of a Newton, or the wisdom of Solomon. Upon this tinsel foundation was my reputation established. Not that I had paid no attention to the classics; I had always made them my first object. But I am conscious of being excelled in that kind of knowledge by more than one of my classmates. Yet the class first, and afterwards the government, have honored me with the first appointments. The society of Social Friends assigned to me the writing of a tragedy, which was my desire in preference to any other honor at the disposal of the society. The activity and versatility of mind and the vivacity of my imagination have been mistaken for knowledge, and my reserve in not connecting myself with any of the officers of government has carried an appearance of independence, and these causes, combined with the good opinion of most of the students, have enabled me to bear the palm from those more studious and more knowing than myself.

"Besides the knowledge of books, I have gained much by my residence at college. I have seen the maxim, 'Self-love, the spring of action, moves the soul,' exemplified in almost innumerable instances. I have seen that man's opinion of right is generally founded upon

his interest; that to make a man your friend, you must promote his interest; that difference of opinion, inflamed by continual dispute, begets coldness and suspicion; that honors often depend on popularity, and popularity on accommodation and acquiescence; but that the most stable kind of popularity—that which insures respect and lasting esteem—is founded upon decision of character. Yet this decision must be based on reason, and exercised with prudence. The man of decision is alone independent. It is remarkable to observe the effect of this quality. A word with him is as an action; a promise, as a performance. The mass revere him, and never press beyond a denial. This I have seen completely exemplified in many of my classmates. Their characters are established, and their opinions, once expressed, are considered as deciding the course of their actions. They are never asked a second time, never urged. I have also seen the ill effects of the contrary disposition exemplified in numerous instances. They refuse, are asked again; begin to question, are urged; waver, are besought for God's sake; yield, and thus expose themselves to the importunities of every needy vagabond and cunning intriguer. Their reward is only contempt."

These were Mr. Kendall's opinions of himself and of mankind in general when he left college. He did not take a diploma, partly because he was indifferent to the bauble, and partly because he disliked the President of the college.

On a settlement with his father, it appeared that the entire cost of his education in fitting for, and going through college, exclusive of clothing, was a little over five hundred and seventy dollars, of which his father had advanced a little over three hundred. The residue was paid out of moneys received by him for keeping school.

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

THE BLIND AND THE DEAF AND DUMB.

THE HOME EDUCATION OF DEAF-MUTE CHILDREN.—A SUGGESTION FOR THE COMING CONVENTION OF TEACHERS.

To the Editors of *The Silent World*:

It is interesting to note the relative feelings of the deaf and dumb and the blind pupils toward each other. The mutes pity the blind because they cannot see, while the blind consider their condition much preferable to that of the mutes, and they give sensible reasons for their opinion, saying that the mute, besides being deprived of the pleasure of hearing, is compelled, by circumstances, to remain in utter ignorance until he enters the institution, whereas they (the blind) can learn much at home during early childhood.

It is undeniable that the blind, as a class, are much more intelligent than the mutes, and such must continue to be the case until the latter are instructed at home from the earliest possible age. How can this be accomplished? Does not the importance of this question demand its consideration by the convention which is to meet in Canada next summer? It appears to your correspondent that it is of far more consequence to the cause of deaf-mute education than several of the questions suggested by the Executive Committee—the 16th for instance. Whatever conclusion the learned convention may arrive at, the mutes will, doubtless, continue in the future, as they have done in the past, to decide for themselves whether they shall marry one another, spend their lives in a fruitless chase after hearing partners, or content themselves with the enjoyment of the "single blessedness" of bachelorhood and maidenhood.

Yours, respectfully,

D. H. C.

A SURPRISE PARTY.

ON Friday, December 26th, 1873, a surprise party was given to Miss E. D. Clapp, who was home for the holidays.

It had been snowing in the morning and raining in the afternoon and evening and so Miss Clapp did not expect any one would go to see her. For this reason the surprise was a *complete success*. Miss C. herself acknowledged as much. The company passed a very pleasant evening playing various games and dancing to the music of the piano, one of Miss Clapp's hearing sisters playing while another led each set, there being two. Refreshments, provided by the surprisers, were served in the course of the evening. Great credit is due to the Committee, Mrs. Dr. Gallaudet, Miss S. C. Howard and Mr. Moses Heyman, as they were indefatigable in their efforts to make the affair a success, and were well rewarded for their trouble by being assured that the end for which they labored had been attained. Among those present might be seen Dr. Gallaudet and Rev. Mr. Chamberlain, Messrs. Johnson and Seliney, teachers in the New York Institution, Mr. W. O. Fitzgerald and wife, Misses Isham and Durbrow, the latter coming all the way from Elizabeth, New Jersey, and others, for the most part old classmates of Miss C. at the New York Institution.

EUREKA.

New York, January 5th, 1874.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN BOSTON.

THE deaf-mutes of Boston and vicinity had a wide-awake celebration of New Year's in the shape of a grand levee, at which more than 200 deaf-mutes and their friends were present. The festival was under the immediate direction of the Boston Deaf-Mutes' Library Association, and brought together many old friends and classmates. There were present several hearing and speaking persons, who, for the time, seemed almost to regret being cumbered with all their senses, so much did those who were deprived of hearing and speech seem to enjoy the occasion.

Mr. William B. Swett made an address of welcome which was very well received and its points highly appreciated. The veteran Mr. Thomas Brown of Henniker, New Hampshire, President of the National Clerc Memorial Union, followed with a relation of some matters of personal history, and of his experiences as an early pupil at the Hartford Institution. Mr. Brown appears to have recovered from the effects of his recent tussle with a locomotive, which nearly deprived the audience of his presence on this occasion.

Mr. Jonathan P. Marsh, another veteran, a Trustee of the Library Association, also spoke, referring to his early training some forty-seven years ago. Mr. William Bailey, of Marblehead, spoke of some of the incidents of his early life. The audience were next much pleased to greet the Rev. W. W. Turner, who was connected with the Hartford Institution for forty years, being Principal of it for ten years. He had come for the express purpose of attending the festival and joining with his friends in celebrating his seventy-fourth birthday.

Mrs. Bowes, the charming wife of Mr. E. N. Bowes, and several other deaf-mutes ladies and gentlemen succeeded Mr. Turner, speaking in a happy and congratulatory manner of the pleasure they felt in meeting their former principal, who had been almost a father to them. Mr. Bowes followed in his inimitable vein, and then the whole assembly adjourned to the restaurant of Mr. A. F. Copeland, close at hand, and partook of a bountiful supper. After the company had returned to the Hall above, they indulged in social converse, played various games and enjoyed themselves until daylight, when they dispersed, having literally "made a night of it."

The hall was beautifully decorated with evergreens and mottoes. A large frame, containing a copy of the charter of the Association

surrounded by the photographs of the officers, attracted much attention.

The success of the levee was due in great measure to the good management of the committee, consisting of Messrs. Bowes, Welch, Shackford and Wade, to whom the large company present are under many obligations.

Taking it all in all, the deaf-mutes of these parts never enjoyed themselves better.

LIBRARY.

SHALL SIGNS BE DISCARDED?

THE world is moving onward; art and science are constantly advancing, but the art of teaching deaf-mutes to-day does not seem to be any better than it was fifty years ago. Is not this because the use of signs is carried on to a greater degree than necessary? Deaf-mute conventions, social gatherings and all kinds of deaf-mute meetings do them little or no good, and never will as long as signs reign supreme.

When a deaf-mute child enters school he sees more of signs than of any thing else. He thinks them useful, and his ambition to become posted in the art at once inspires him. He learns them, and he learns them faster than he learns words; he begins to think it of little consequence to learn how to write and to read. He will not read the daily papers himself, but gets some one to tell him the news of the day in signs. He complains that his teacher does not explain his lesson to him, and does not seem to think that he might read it himself and study out the meaning. Even when he wants to be excused from the school-room, he forgets that it is easy enough to spell, "May I go out." Simple as this sentence is, he never expresses it in any other way than by his unnatural sign-language.

Truly, and as true as that the earth revolves around the sun, signs are the cause of deaf-mutes not being able to use language as well as hearing people. But I will admit that signs are sometimes useful in imparting thoughts to beginners, but on the whole they do more harm than good. We all ought to remember that we must mix among our hearing brethren after we leave school and always seek to prepare ourselves for such intercourse. We can show our gratitude to those by whose exertions we are "raised out of the mists of obscurity and contempt in which we have long been enveloped," and we can do it in no other way, than by making ourselves useful. Rise above the base entanglements of "deaf-mutism," deaf-mute gossip, and all those faults which belong to none but deaf-mutes. Try to discard signs wholly, substitute for them spelling by fingers. Read more and more, and be like our hearing brethren. Do not let the world look upon us as ignorant and useless foreigners. It may seem hard at first to depend wholly on the manual alphabet, but, from our own experience, we can say that it will be easier after we have "set the ball in motion." The hardest of every thing lies at its beginning.

Cannot signs be wholly discarded, cannot we teach a mute child by beginning with words and using no signs, except those few that are natural to all. We think it can be done. The experiment remains to be tried. Does a hearing child learn words the first time he hears them? No, of course not, but he watches the consequences; he observes that actions always follow and correspond with certain words that he hears spoken, and by practice and observation he learns to understand them. The same rule ought to be applied to deaf-mute children in the use of the manual alphabet. We beg all Institutions to take this matter into careful consideration.

And in conclusion we say to all deaf-mutes, "Use less signs and more words."

RANALD DOUGLAS.

STATISTICS presented to the French Academy show that the marriages of blood relations form about two per cent. of all the marriages in France, and that the deaf and dumb offspring, at birth of consanguineous marriages, are, in proportion to the deaf and dumb born in ordinary wedlock—at Lyons, full twenty-five per cent.; at least twenty-five per cent. in Paris, and thirty per cent in Bordeaux—the proportions of the deaf and dumb, by birth, increasing with the degree of blood relationship. The data obtained show that, if the danger of having a deaf and dumb child in ordinary marriage, represented by figures, is one, there will be eighteen in marriages between first cousins, thirty-seven in marriages between uncles and nieces, and seventy in marriages between nephews and aunts. It appears, too, that the most healthy parents, if related in blood, may have deaf and dumb children; while deaf and dumb parents, if not related, very rarely have deaf and dumb children.—*Tribune*.

AMONG recently-painted miniatures we have seen none that please us better than those executed by Mr. John Carlin, whose studio is at No. 212 West Twenty-fifth street. Mr. Carlin has succeeded, in all the specimens of his art that we have inspected, in preserving the individuality of his subject, and combining strength of expression with softness and elaboration of finish. Mr. Carlin, we believe, studied the principles of his art in Paris, under Delaroche, intending to become a painter of historical subjects, and his efforts in this line show, at least, correct drawing and variety and strength of expression, if nothing more. His sketches in oil of Trenton Falls and Black River prove his capacity in the landscape branch of his art, and his life-size pastel portraits exhibit his ability to work in a somewhat difficult medium. It is as a miniature painter, however, that Mr. Carlin is likely, we think, to win most laurels. His flesh tints are remarkably pure, and his finish all that can be desired, while the strong individuality of each face assures us of the faithfulness of the likeness.—*New York Times*.

A YOUTH, named John Smith, about 16 years of age, lost his sense of hearing about two years ago, and finally lost his reason, and was placed in the Institution for Idiotic and Feeble Minded Youth at South Boston. A few weeks since it was learned that when about seven years of age he had put some pebble-stones in his ears whilst at play, and that these had never been withdrawn, and acting upon this clew a woman doctor began experiments. A syringe was at first applied, and then a probe. At last the probe produced a grating sound, and further efforts revealed, as had been anticipated, a number of small pebbles lying deep in the ear, beneath the skin. One of them, about the size of a pin's head, was first got out, then another, and another, until by successive repetitions of the experiment no less than twenty-nine small pebbles were removed from the sufferer's head. All this was done without starting a drop of blood, or causing any distress to the patient. It is believed now that he will regain his reason.—*Boston Advertiser*.

MANY of the deaf-mutes of our city and its neighborhood, whose lips are closed in silence, and whose tongues fail to utter the Christian world's greeting on Christmas day, held a pleasant entertainment at 289 Washington street, Christmas evening, in the Library Hall. The attendance was very good, and two profusely loaded Christmas trees were despoiled of numerous gifts which were given to all who were present. The occasion was a very interesting one, not only to the mutes but to quite a large number of spectator.

The committee of the occasion were Mrs. P. M. Bowes, Messrs. Shackford, E. J. Welsh, and E. N. Bowes.—*Boston Paper*.

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WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15, 1874.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

THE form of the Memorial to Laurent Clerc has been decided upon. The Board of Managers met in Hartford, Connecticut, on the 13th of December, and voted to have a bronze bust upon a granite pedestal. The details of the monument are given in our last number. The Executive Committee has contracted with Mr. H. A. Batterson, a master stone-cutter of Hartford, to do the work. It is to cost \$3000, and is to be finished by the end of next August.

It is a matter for congratulation that this affair, which has excited so much discussion for the past two years, is settled at last. It is a matter of much greater congratulation that it has been decided so well, for we think that nearly all of our readers will agree with us in saying that, under all the circumstances of the case, the memorial could hardly have taken a more appropriate form.

For this satisfactory conclusion the organization is indebted to the faithful labors of the Executive Committee; and we take the success and expedition of their efforts thus far as a guaranty that the memorial will be completed by the time mentioned, and dedicated in as happy a manner as it has been decided upon.

It yet remains to choose an orator for the occasion of its dedication, and to decide upon the bas-relief in bronze which is to adorn the front of the monument. We understand that all deaf-mutes and others are invited to send in designs for the bas-relief before the 1st of February next. The panel in which it is to be placed is two feet square and three and a half feet from the ground. Any appropriate subject may be chosen. Their designs should be sent to the Secretary of the Union, Mr. H. W. Syle, at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, New York City.

THE ANNALS FOR JANUARY

OPENS with an article by Mr. B. D. Pettengill, of the Philadelphia Institution, on "home education for deaf-mutes." This article does not exactly treat of what one is led to expect from the title, for it is mostly devoted to demonstrating that deaf-mutes could be better educated if they were taught in small classes. Mr. P. is convinced that, if classes in our Institutions could be so reduced in the number of pupils composing them as to consist of only about half a dozen members each, we might expect to obtain the highest results possible in the education of deaf-mutes. But he states at the outset that he considers that the very best way to educate a deaf-mute, is, for the parents to commence teaching the child, as soon as they discover he can not hear, and persevering for eight or ten years, when he will be far enough advanced to attend the ordinary schools of those who hear and speak. We think Mr. P. commits a mistake in subordinating the tutorship of an experienced person to the unskilled efforts of the parents; and we should think the first resort of parents, where they can afford it, should be to a person who knows how to unfold the minds of the deaf and dumb, unless they have a superabundance of time on their hands, and

zeal, aptitude and energy enough to learn from experience with sufficient rapidity to carry their child forward without hindrance.

M. Vaisse's "practical suggestions" are full of good advice, and in them he inculcates upon the teacher love for children and sympathy with misfortune; distinguishes between the title of *professor* and *instructor* and holds that an instructor of the deaf and dumb has a precious privilege which the professor does not enjoy—the privilege of knowing that his pupils from their earliest lessons understand the object of his teaching, and recognize its aid. He thinks that in the education of deaf-mutes the labor of the teacher must, in a great degree, be individual; that is, he must enter into his pupils' antecedents and interest himself in his affairs so that the pupil will take a keener zest in the lessons the teacher constructs from them. The pupil should be introduced to the use of books as soon as possible, and the influence of the teacher should not be confined to the regular hours of the class-room, but should go beyond into their social intercourse; and, for this purpose, gatherings of teachers and pupils should often take place. He thinks the use of "labial speech" is of great benefit in the ordinary conditions of life, for no matter how unskilled in speaking the person may be, if he can understand the speech of others a great advantage is gained in his ability to receive a lesson from the lips of the teacher, and thus have the idioms of language fixed in his mind.

Mr. A. S. Clark, teacher of articulation in the Hartford School, reviews Mr. Phillips' Elements of "Human Speech," and endeavors to show that he is very inaccurate in his attempt to describe the method of forming the elements of the English language, and unjust in his criticism of "visible speech." Of his success in this attempt it is not for us to speak; but we can say that he has produced a well written article, and seems to handle his subject readily.

Mr. Samuel Porter, of the College in Washington, gives his experiences of European schools during last summer, which are quite interesting. A portion was published in THE SILENT WORLD for September 1, 1873, and the remainder treats of instruction in articulation. He mentions an ingenious machine for printing by touch and pressure upon keys, one for each letter of the alphabet, invented by Mr. Hansen, superintendent of the institution for the deaf and dumb in Copenhagen. Mr. H. proposes to bring it to the Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876.

The other articles in this number are "Reviews of Publications" by the Editor, "The Buildings of the Ohio Institution," by its superintendent, Mr. Fay, which is illustrated with a cut of the Institution and a plan of the first floor.

MR. SAMUEL PORTER, a professor in the Deaf-Mute College, suggested, in the last number of *The Annals*, that a convention of teachers of the deaf and dumb be held in Philadelphia during the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. If such a convention is intended to give the teachers an opportunity to see the show, it would be very well; but if it is expected that they will, in the midst of the great hub-bub, give their undivided attention to an earnest discussion of the methods of instruction and other vital questions, we fear it will only end in disappointment.

MR. JOHN CARLIN, in a note to his last article, endeavored to correct an oversight of his in the spelling of the word "Cerberus," and we tried with all our might to aid him, but the compositor proved too much for us, and only made it appear that Mr. Carlin did not know what he was writing about. We are sorry for this, and will do Mr. C. the justice to say that he had the word written correctly, and the blunder was due solely to the carelessness of the typo in neglecting to correct his proof.

PERSONAL.

W. S. SMITH, the Baron, at last accounts, was deluding our friend, Mr. Wolf Morris with his stories in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

MR. L. S. INGRAHAM, our old friend and classmate, resides in Florence, Massachusetts. He is married and is doing well.

MRS. C. K. W. STRONG, assisted by Mrs. Phelps, and Mrs. I. H. Benedict, assisted by her daughter and niece, received calls in Washington on New Year's day and entertained their friends most hospitably.

A LADY was recently drowned by breaking through the ice while skating on the river near St. John, New Brunswick. Her body was recovered by the exertions of a deaf-mute named Thomas Boyd.

THE deaf-mutes of Baltimore had a pleasant social gathering at the house of Miss Garrish on Christmas day. There were present several deaf-mutes from Washington, among them, Mr. Welty and Mr. Brewer.

THE father of Mr. Jacob H. Knoedler, of Trevorton, Pennsylvania, recently died of a tumor in the stomach. The tumor was so situated that he could eat nothing during the last three weeks, and literally starved to death. His sufferings were great.

MR. S. L. NICHOLS was disappointed in his hopes of obtaining a situation in the Government Printing Office in Washington, and has returned to Raleigh, North Carolina, where he has gone to work on *The Independent*.

JOHN GRAU, a deaf-mute, formerly a pupil of the Ohio Institution, was recently arrested in the act of entering a store in Columbus and lodged in jail. This is not the first instance that he has been caught in a similar scrape and it is impossible to restrain him from his pilfering acts, unless closely watched.

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS TURNER, of Clifton, Ohio, celebrated their tin wedding on the 20th of November last. It was a very pleasant occasion, and many of their friends were present and brought with them "tin-der" expressions of their regard.

MR. JOHN W. COMPTON, of Washington, has been visiting his friends in New York recently, among them Mr. John Carlin, his brother-in-law. While there, Mr. Compton was, we regret to learn, confined to his room for a week by an inflammation of the right eye.

MISS BURNET, daughter of Mr. J. R. Burnet of the New York Institution, was treated to a surprise party by her deaf-mute friends of New York City on the evening of the 18th of December. Although surprised that lady contrived to entertain her friends in true hospitable style, and they separated at a late hour well satisfied with the result of their tactics.

MR. W. C. BUMGARDNER, the well-known deaf-mute drover of Harrison County, West Virginia, was married, on the 2d of November, to a third cousin of his, Miss Alice Bumgardner, a hearing lady. The ceremony took place at the residence of the bride's father, in Ellenboro. They made a short wedding tour to Wheeling, and other places, and called on Mr. Steenrod and other deaf-mute residents of Wheeling.

MR. MICAH J. JENKINS, of John Island, South Carolina, a graduate of the Virginia and New York Institutions, and Miss Fannie H. McKinney, a graduate of the Virginia Institution, who was for several years an assistant matron of the girls' department of that Institution, were married on the 2d of December. The ceremony was performed in the chapel of the Staunton School, which was beautifully decorated with evergreens. The happy couple started on the same day for Richmond and Charleston, South Carolina.

OUR subscriber, Mr. Colonel Artherholt, of Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, was married to Miss Jennie Jamison of Norwich, Ohio, on the 24th of December, by Mr. G. O. Fay, Superintendent of the Ohio Institution. Both are graduates of the Ohio Institution.

DR. THOMAS GALLAUDET paid Washington, D. C., a visit on the 18th of December and held services for deaf-mutes in St. Mark's chapel, on Capitol Hill. He was accompanied by his mother, Mrs. T. H. Gallaudet, who will spend the winter with her youngest son, the President of the Deaf-Mute College. Rev. Mr. Gallaudet conducted services for deaf-mutes in Grace Church, Baltimore, on Sunday, the 21st of December. He is soon to recommend a gentleman to succeed the late Mr. Adams as Lay Reader for the deaf and dumb in that place.

NEAR Glenford, Ohio, live the two families of Messrs. John Barnes and Julius Pier. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, and one of their little girls, and Mr. and Mrs. Pier and their son John Wesley Jennings are all deaf-mutes. The little son of Mr. Pier, who is five years old, one day went over to play with Mary Barnes, who is of the same age with himself, and can hear, but being accustomed from infancy to the silent language of her parents and sister, does not use oral language. As dinner-time approached, the two children were in the barn playing, and the little girl remembering the excellent dinners her mother always provided for her guests, thought she ought to give her visitor his dinner also. Seeing a little chicken on the barn floor she caught it, cut off its head with a hatchet, and stripped it of its feathers. She then invited her visitor to help her eat the dinner she had thus prepared. The feast, of course, proved unpalatable, and throwing it away, the children went to the house for their dinner. It was fortunate for Mr. Barnes that his little girl did not build a fire in the barn to cook the chicken, as it is one of the finest ones in the county, and contained at the time several hundred bushels of wheat and other valuable articles. c.

A MOTTO for the class-room of an institution for the deaf and dumb.—"Addition, Division, and Silence." N. B.—It is not to be taken in a political sense.

THERE is a woman in Iowa who, although possessed of the usual organs of speech, has not spoken for five years. Under a state of religious infatuation she made an oath that she would never speak more, and has, so far, kept her word.

DASENT estimates that in Europe alone, there are 200,000 deaf and dumb persons. In the mountainous regions, as in Switzerland and Savoy, the proportion is very great. In the Berne Canton there is one to every 195 inhabitants; in Scotland, one to 196. In Great Britain, however, the proportion is only one in 1,660; in Ireland, one in 1,380. At the census in 1851, there were 12,553 deaf and dumb, 6,884 male, 5,669 female. They have increased in number during the last twenty years, the former still heading the list.

DR. F. MAYHEW, of Glastonbury, England, vouches in *The Lancet* for the following facts: A man in his neighborhood had three daughters. Wishing for a son, he made a solemn vow that if his next child should be a girl he would never speak to her. The next child proved to be a son, as he wished, but curiously enough, he never would speak to his father although he lived thirty-five years with him. He always talked freely with his mother and sisters, but with no one else until after the death of his father, when he talked readily with every one. He was called "Dumb Eli." The occurrence is considered by some a judgment, and certainly is a curious instance of mysterious influence.

COLLEGE RECORD.

DOUGLAS is indefatigable in taking new photographic views of the Institution surroundings.

OUR Ohio boys seem to have had a very good time at the Ohio Institution during the holidays and have come back beaming and brilliant.

G. F. CUTTER, of '77, has left College. He has for some time past been troubled with sore eyes and goes home to give them rest and time to get well. He may return in the Fall.

JOHN SMITH, a colored boy sixteen years old, has been admitted to the Primary Department. He is the first of the great family of that name who has been a pupil in this school.

REV. DR. CHICKERING deserves the thanks of the whole Institution for having the Dumenade cleaned. He obtained men to do it a few days since, as he did last year, and now it is passable,

R. P. MCGREGOR, of '72, spent the Christmas holidays in Washington. He is looking hearty, and is the same sedate and pensive Bob as of yore. There was some big talk about those canoes during his stay.

THE following officers for the Literary Society were elected at the last meeting: *President*, E. L. Chapin, '74; *Vice-President*, A. C. Powell, '75; *Secretary*, J. C. Balis, '75; *Treasurer*, J. E. Crane, '77; *Librarian*, G. M. Teegarden, '76; *Critic*, W. G. Jones, '76.

THERE was quite a lively scene in the *Lit.* meeting of Friday last, which reminded one of old times. Some got mad, and some stood on their dignity, and all were terribly excited over a motion to fine the President for "contempt of court" and other persons.

MR. JOSEPH CHICKERING, a tutor in Amherst College, Massachusetts, accompanied by his wife, has been spending his Christmas holidays, with his brother, the Professor. Mrs. Chickering is first cousin to Miss. Mary Gordon, a teacher in the Primary Department.

WE are glad to note the universal observance among the students of the custom of making calls on New Year's day. The ladies at the President's house, at Professor Chickering's, at the Institution, and at Mr. Bryant's, were all honored in large measure, and did well by the boys.

THE whole Institution was plunged into deep and lasting darkness, on the stormy night of the 6th, by the sudden failure of the gas supply. There was at first a sudden stamp of astonishment in the College, and then a rush for the Janitor. Many collisions occurred in the halls and considerable damage was sustained by prominent noses before that worthy functionary was found and candles obtained.

SOMEBODY attended the watch-meeting of our colored citizens in Bethel Chapel, on Capitol Hill, the night the Old Year died, and she was terribly frightened. Here is her story: "That negro jumped right at me—he did; I thought he was going to eat me up—and they jumped and howled and screeched and screamed, and acted just like crazy people. I thought I was in the bad place. They are a wicked set, and every time the preacher said 'de debbil, he want to catch you all,' they hooted, and applauded, and shouted, 'dat am so! dat am so!' I was so frightened, and they looked so like hyenas, and tigers and all those horrible beasts, that I asked a dear, good policeman to take me safely out. I will never go there again. I wonder why President Grant lets those wicked people carry on so."

THE class in Chemistry were recently requested to assist Professor Gordon in analyzing something sent by friends in Indiana for his examination. He gave them the following instructions before producing the substance: "Learn as much as possible from the external properties of the substance to be analyzed: its texture, odor, lustre, hardness, gravity, crystalline or amorphous structure. 2. The substance should be divided into several portions to guard against accidents, and to provide for making additional tests. 3. The substance which you are to analyze is a compound." The Professor remarked that he had never seen any accurate analysis of it, and then produced a huge loaf of cake and commenced distributing generous portions. The class were somewhat taken aback but speedily fell to analyzing. Ere long they arrived at the definite conclusion that "it was good." They have as yet seen no reason to alter that conclusion; and are perfectly willing to undertake an analysis of any more compounds of the sort. The whole class think the study of Chemistry is very interesting.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE pupils of the North Carolina Institution gave a very interesting exhibition on the evening of December 12th, and, at its close, a collection was taken up to be expended in presents for the pupils on Christmas. The sum dropped into the hat was quite large.

INSTITUTION NEWS.

VIRGINIA.

I SPENT Christmas at this Institution, where I was educated, and had a very pleasant time. There has been no better entertainment there for years.

Mr. McCoy, the principal, arranged a room privately for the festivities of Christmas eve. It was carpeted with pure white to represent snow, and ornamented with festoons of cedar and ivy. In the centre of the room was a platform, upon which a sleigh was placed, and in it sat old Santa Claus, the famous patron of children, dressed in white furs, with long white beard, rosy wrinkled face, small black pipe, and surrounded with gifts. It was understood that he had collected his gifts for the children from among the merchants and others of the town.

Somehow Santa Claus knew the sign-language, and his merry remarks caused great laughter. From his actions on this occasion some of the pupils shrewdly suspect that Santa Claus is deaf and dumb, and hears not the tinkle of his own musical bells. VA. JNO.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE Evening and Sunday School in St. John, under the charge of Mr. A. H. Abell, is progressing very rapidly, and more room and additional funds are urgently needed. There are now eighteen pupils in the school, of which seven can speak.

The expenses of this school amount to \$314, (particulars of which have been furnished to us) without any for salary payment, the school being conducted voluntarily. The receipts amount to \$150, showing the necessity of further contributions to clear up the debt and enable the deaf and dumb to be accommodated with more room, and to secure some one to teach articulation. There have been seven applications from the country for admittance, but Mr. Abell had to advise the parties to wait till the summer, in the hope that more means may be provided.

There are over 240 uneducated deaf-mutes in the Province of New Brunswick, leaving out those now in the Institution at Halifax.

Mr. Abell has adopted what he calls "the New York System" and finds it superior to that generally pursued in Canada; and he is well satisfied with the progress of his pupils.

OHIO.

THE 49th annual report was presented to the governor of Ohio a few weeks since, and will probably be ready for distribution by the first of February.

The crowded condition of our study-rooms has made some changes necessary. About eighty new folding desks and seats have been put up for the higher classes. They are much more convenient than the old ones, besides occupying less space. When folded there is a passage between them.

The boys are again in possession of their play-room.

Christmas was duly observed by the pupils. Quite a number of boxes arrived, filled with nice things—a proof that the good folks at home do not forget their little ones. The weather was mild, and the sun shone down brilliantly all day. It was, indeed, a beautiful day, and all seemed to enjoy it. At noon all the pupils assembled in the dining hall where was spread a bountiful repast, King Turkey forming the center of attraction. A variety of tableaux, conducted by the teachers, formed the evening entertainment.

New Year's eve was celebrated in a similar manner. The holidays brought quite a number of visitors, among others Messrs. Park and Greener from the Washington College, and Mr. Valentine from the Indiana Institution.

Jan. 1, 1874.

F. Z.

ON Saturday evening, January 3d, previous to the departure for College of Messrs. Park and Greener, a delightful party was given at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Park, to which about thirty persons were invited from the Institution, mostly members of the Clonia Society. After several hours spent in pleasant conversation and social games, the party were provided with a sumptuous repast.

At nine o'clock the company bade good-bye to the host and hostess, well pleased with the evening's entertainment.

INDIANA.

SOMETHING was in the air. There had been faint whisperings of it for a week. But what was it? The day before Christmas the chapel doors were kept locked all day. No use trying to peep through the key-holes for they were stuffed with paper. Then the idea of sleeping until eight o'clock Christmas morning with turkey and mince pie, and that mysterious something looming up before the eyes. Preposterous! But so it was decreed, for every one was tired, and dinner was to be at three. So eyelids were squeezed tightly together until breakfast came at length, then dinner, and at last the deep twilight with the unfolding of the chapel doors, and the disclosing of the beautiful mystery. A Christmas tree! Reaching from the stage to the ceiling, the branches

gay with bright-hued bags of tarleton filled with nuts, nick-nacks, cakes and candies—one for every pupil, and on each an envelope containing a necktie or ribbon for every boy and girl, with "A Merry Christmas" greeting. Three circular steps at the base of the tree were laden with plants from the green house which sent out their delicate odors to mingle with those of other flowers at the four corners of the stage. The wall behind the stage was decorated with evergreens, while on the slate black-board stood forth in large, bold letters, "O, COME AND LET US BE JOYFUL, JOYFUL! JOYFUL!"

A joyful time it was, as many eager, happy faces testified. After the presents were distributed there came the "Ghost Story" in pantomime; apples were then distributed, and innocent games were played in the study-rooms and shared alike by officers and pupils until ten o'clock brought this "merry Christmas" to an end.

On New Year's eve there was a repetition of the latter part of this programme.

The sore eyes are getting well, and there are no new cases.

Mr. Holloway's health continues about the same.

The health of the Institution continues good, but last Thanksgiving day a pupil named Albert Burkhardt fell and broke his leg while climbing a picket fence. He is doing well now.

LAURA.

TENNESSEE.

The pupils of this Institution have a debating society. It was organized three years ago, and prospers greatly. It recently held a meeting and invited the girls to witness the debate on the questions: "Does spirituous liquors cause more evil than money?" "Ought the mails to be carried on Sunday?" "Which is preferable, city-life or country-life?" The Institution lacks a good library necessary for the improvement of the pupils, and considering this disadvantage the young gentlemen did remarkably well.

A weekly prayer-meeting is, also, well attended. A lecture on Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" was recently delivered before it by one of the deaf teachers, much to the interest of the pupils who attended it.

The day after Thanksgiving, Mr. T. L. Moses, one of the hearing teachers, started with me for the Cumberland Mountains, 40 miles from the city of Knoxville, to visit the coal mines. On the evening of the first day after we started we were sitting at the fireside of the inn at Careysville, closely observed by a cluster of rough-looking men who wondered at our signs. Now and then they cast suspicious glances at us and finally one of them whispered to a companion that he thought we were impostors and intended robbing them, and that he should keep a watch through the night with a pistol under his pillow. Mr. Moses, overhearing this, burst out laughing and soon satisfied them of our genuineness, and put them all on jolly terms with us.

The next day we reached the mines, and entered by one of the cars drawn by a mule. When we had got well in, the mule became baulky and refused to proceed further. The driver became furious, and, while wildly beating the animal, struck his light out and left us in Cimmerian darkness. It was some time ere a light was procured and there we sat conjuring up all sorts of horribly slimy shapes. When a light came we explored the wonders of the mine, then returned home in the evening, having made a very pleasant, interesting and instructive trip.

Mr. Jjams, the Superintendent, recently took Miss Sykes to her home in West Tennessee, on account of her ill health. On his return he brought two interesting little girls, one of whom is from Texas.

Miss Rosa Howell is not married as reported in your paper last November. Her numerous suitors will breathe easier on finding that she is yet free.

KNOX.

KENTUCKY.

THE Christmas-holiday was enjoyed with more than ordinary zest and satisfaction by the pupils of this Institution. In addition to a bountiful supply of delicacies on their breakfast plates, followed by a sumptuous dinner, many of them received packages of "goodies" from home. Some of the boys, under the lead of the jolly Anderson, to wind up the festivities of the day, clubbed their scanty pocket-change, and had a supper in one of the unoccupied attic-rooms, where, if not a "feast of reason," there certainly was a copious flow of oyster-soup, plentifully stocked with the delicious bivalves, to which ample justice was done by the contributors and their invited guests. When the cloth (if old newspapers spread over shaky tables of various dimensions may be dignified with the title) was removed, it was evident that all were "too full for utterance;" consequently the world will ever remain ignorant what scintillations of wisdom and wit were quenched and swept into oblivion on that festive occasion. The girls, not to be outdone in the feasting line, also treated themselves to a nice little supper. It had been the intention of our worthy matron to provide an entertainment in the shape of a tableaux, but the design was frustrated by a change in the holiday programme.

It has heretofore been the practice to allow a recess of one week at Christmas, and one of the same length in May; but as none of the pupils were permitted to spend these holidays at home, the arrange-

ment did not work harmoniously. In lieu thereof, the regular vacation is to commence the middle of July instead of the first of August, and terminate the last of September. This change is made in compliance with the unanimous petition of the pupils themselves.

Another pleasing innovation on the old order of things was initiated on the evening of the 1st., and it is enthusiastically endorsed by the pupils. This was a "sociable," which passed off so agreeably that all are looking forward with keen interest to its recurrence at brief intervals. On the evening in question the parlors were thrown open to about one-half of the boys and girls, who were allowed to enjoy themselves in innocent amusements and games of various kinds. Our kind-hearted matron, with the easy, natural, winning grace for which she is noted, diffused such an air of cheerfulness around that the "awkward squads" were soon relieved of their embarrassment, and entered with relish into the spirit of the occasion. Her efforts were ably seconded by the principal and some of the teachers. The young ladies and gentlemen behaved commendably; and when the hour for retiring was announced, many a suddenly elongated countenance betokened the regret felt at the interruption of their pleasures. Such sociables exert a beneficial and refining influence upon the mutes, polishing off the rough edges and incongruities in their characters and familiarizing them with the amenities of social life.

The museum, attached to the Institution, has lately been enriched by the contribution of several specimens of rare birds and a veritable wild-cat, all of which have been skillfully stuffed and mounted by Mr. Schofield, one of the mute teachers, who is rapidly perfecting himself in the taxidermic art.

J. G. G.

MINNESOTA.

A STATE convention of the Patrons of Husbandry was held in Faribault early in December. One morning the delegates, many of whom were accompanied by their wives, visited the Institution in a body, filling the chapel to its utmost capacity. One class after another came from the school-rooms, mounted the platform and underwent a sort of public examination. Two of the young ladies from the first class repeated in concert the beautiful verses entitled, "Father take my Hand," and a little girl repeated the Lord's Prayer with such effect that many of the spectators were moved to tears. The visitors were well pleased with the exercises, and left with a better knowledge than they ever before possessed of the nature of the good work which this and similar Institutions are carrying on.

Since the opening of the term in September the Sabbath School has been studying the National Series of Lessons. The introduction was an experiment, but it has proved highly successful. The lesson is written upon the slates in the chapel on Sunday morning and explained to the pupils by one of the teachers. In the afternoon the Superintendent selects a portion of the lesson as the subject of his lecture, and in the evening the upper classes commit the lesson to memory, to be recited on Monday morning. The pupils thus become acquainted with much Bible truth. During the last quarter the lessons have been of a peculiarly interesting and impressive nature, treating of the sufferings, death and resurrection of the Saviour.

The pupils all attend church on the first Sunday of each month, each pupil attending the church selected by himself or his parents. At the Methodist church a blind young man translates the services for the benefit of the mutes, much to their satisfaction.

For some weeks coasting has been the leading sport of the boys and those of the girls who are daring enough to risk an upset into the snow, which includes almost all of them. It is estimated that the rate of speed made by the sleds sometimes approximates twenty miles per hour.

The cooper shop is flourishing under the charge of J. M. Cosgrove, a member of the first class. Materials for the barrels are provided by a firm in the city which pays the Institution a specified amount for each barrel when completed. Thus the shop is self-supporting, causing no expense to the Institution. Some excellent work is turned out by the boys, and they labor with an energy which it is pleasing to see.

Although we have no regular vacation at Christmas, several of the pupils spent a few days at their homes. Those who remained had a very pleasant time, school duties being discontinued from Wednesday until Monday. Old Santa Claus began operations on the night before Christmas when he visited the dining-room, and left a present under each plate. In the evening the entire household and a number of visitors assembled in the chapel to witness interesting tableaux under the management of Mr. Pratt. After the play the contents of the Christmas boxes for the pupils were distributed. Then all proceeded to the dining-room where supper was served, and a bushel or two of choice candies, presented by merchants of Faribault and St. Paul, were divided among the pupils. On New Year we had another holiday. The weather being pleasant and the snow in fine condition, the numerous sleds were kept running almost the entire day. In the evening we had some shadow-playing followed by a generous treat of apples, candies and nuts.

D. H. C.

THE FORTNIGHT.

THE Dutch have gained several victories of late over the Acheenese.

The best patronized penitentiaries and richest silver mines are in Nevada.

It is said that fifty-two ex-Confederate officials occupy seats in the House of Representatives.

There is an American in London who plays billiards with his nose. He does not have to chalk it.

An Indian squaw, three feet high and eighty-seven years old, is on exhibition in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The property in Boston, after all its ill-luck, is greater by eighty millions than that in the whole State of New Jersey.

Ex-Mayor Hall, of New York, has been acquitted of taking part in the robberies of the New York City Treasury by the Tweed Ring.

The number of hogs slaughtered in Cincinnati during November and December is 499,000, against 433,000 for the same time last year.

A hen stopped a train on a Pennsylvania railroad, her body striking the trigger that put on the air brakes, but she will never stop another.

Genet, one of the Tweed Ring plunderers has escaped from custody, and gone to parts unknown. It is thought that the sheriffs aided his escape.

A one-armed soldier walked from Cincinnati to Washington to get a position, and the position he got was before the police justice, charged with vagrancy.

Louis Kossuth, revolutionary Governor of Hungary in 1849, and now old, and poor, lives in a garret in Turin, and gives lessons in German, English, and Hungarian.

The Carlist war in Spain is said to have seriously interfered with the cork trade, much of the region producing the cork trees being in possession of the Carlist forces.

Ziba Darlington of Chester county, Pennsylvania, recently discovered a tortoise marked "Z. D., 1820," which he recognized as the work of his hand fifty-three years ago.

Local legislation in Beldington, Maine, was lately brought to a stand still by a firm of lumber-dealers hiring the entire Board of Selectmen to cut wood in New Hampshire.

At Montoursville, Pennsylvania, recently a man was standing by his horse, eating an apple, when the animal opened his jaws and seized the apple, biting the man's thumb completely off.

The workmen celebrated the opening of the Hoosac Tunnel by tapping two or three barrels of beer. There was no interference by the police, as the barrels were marked "nitro-glycerine."

Five pieces of captured French bronze cannon have arrived in Baltimore as a present from the Emperor William of Germany to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. They are to be melted for a church bell.

After nearly twenty-five years' experience of a prohibitory law, and seven or eight years' trial of a State police specially to enforce it, there are at this hour in the city of Boston three thousand places where liquors are illegally sold.

The steamer *Virginus*, about which there has been so much trouble of late, sank in a storm off Cape Fear, North Carolina, on the 26th, while being towed to Washington by the United States steamer *Ossipee*.

The British Government countenances polygamy not only among the natives of India, but among the white residents. Mr. K. G. Melville, of the British civil service, has disgusted his wife by becoming Mahometan, and marrying a native girl.

The talked-of tunnel between Scotland and Ireland would be about twelve miles long, and the estimated cost is \$23,000,000. It would extend from a point on the North shore of Ireland, near Belfast, under the Irish sea, to the extremity of the peninsula opposite in Scotland.

Judge Morris, of Brooklyn, New York, had an infernal machine sent to him in a cigar-box on New Year's day. He thought it was a box of cigars and was prying it open when the click of a spring attracted his attention. He put the box in a bath-tub to soak, and spoiled the machine.

The chief of the New York city police force, Mr. Matsell, was arrested by one of his men late one night recently, while standing in the doorway of a building down town, waiting for a stage. The officer thought he looked like a burglar, and Mr. Matsell commended his vigilance.

Our yearly supply of gold at the date of the discovery of the precious metals in California was about \$3,000,000. It sprang up at once to \$25,000,000, running up to its maximum figure in 1853 of \$68,000,000. For the last seven or eight years it has averaged not far from \$60,000,000.

According to a Chicago paper, there is a project for a railroad between Boston and Washington, which is to start out of the Boston and Maine railroad depot and proceed by a short cut across the country, striking the Hudson river at Spuyten Duyvil, thus avoiding the inconveniences of the present break of connection in New York city.

The nomination of Mr. A. H. Williams for the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States met with great opposition everywhere, and President Grant has withdrawn his name and nominated the Hon. Caleb Cushing, who had but just been appointed minister to Spain in place of Gen. Sickles, resigned.

Spain has once more overthrown its government. Recently Castelar's ministry was defeated in the Cortes by a majority of 20, and immediately resigned. Then Gen. Pavia with a military force seized the palace and drove out the deputies and proclaimed a new ministry with Marshal Serrano at its head. Both Serrano and Pavia are extreme royalists, and it is thought there will be a return to the monarchical form of government.

The United States storm-warning signal service is very efficient. Out of one hundred predictions of storms during November and December eighty-one proved true. The English weather office, while under the able management of Admiral Fitzroy, showed an average of but seventy-three out of one hundred predictions. There can be little doubt that but for the many failures of the telegraph lines to transmit the weather reports in this country promptly the success would be still greater.

There was an extensive strike of locomotive engineers on the Pennsylvania Railroad and its connections on the 27th ult., which lasted for several days and caused much inconvenience. The engineers refused to work in consequence of a reduction of ten per cent. in their pay. Some resorted to violence when trains were attempted to be run without their help, and several trains were thrown from the track by misplaced switches, and one man was shot through the arm. Miles on miles of freight-cars accumulated at Pittsburg and other points during the strike. The engineers finally went to work under the reduction.

The King of Dahomey has joined the Ashantees in their war with England, and has sent his Female Guard of 8000 warriors to meet the Highlanders, who have been sent to the scene of the conflict. These women soldiers are armed with the best Birmingham muskets and fight like demons when aroused, neither accepting nor granting quarter. They are cannibals, too, who scalp and devour their victims. The gallantry of the Forty-Second, the finest regiment in the British service, will be sorely tried on coming in contact with these Amazons; for whether they fight or run away they will prove themselves ungallant. Meanwhile they have been stripped of their kilts and placed in "trews" to dispel the impression that they are women too.

While the East is enjoying spring weather, there have been heavy snow storms in the Northwest. In the neighborhood of Carson, Nevada, the snow is five feet deep, and on the summit of the Sierras it must be from eight to twelve feet. Pioneers are talking about the snowing in of the Donner party years ago, before the railroad was built. The Donner family camped on bare ground at night-fall, and got up to find themselves in a waste of deep and trackless snow. They staid there all through the winter, starving within a mile of a lake which was full of fish. When they chopped down trees they left stumps standing twenty-five feet from the ground, which are still pointed out to the shuddering traveller. After eating their cattle they devoured each other, until none was left but a German servant man. In the spring a party from California came upon the camp and saw the German crouching over a fire, insanely devouring his horrible repast.